

Message Text

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ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 /169 R

DRAFTED BY TREASURY:RSELF

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:JCRAWFORD

EB/OT/STA:ECONSTABLE

ARA/NC/C:MKRANZ

ARA/NC:FDEVINE

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P 142306Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CO

SUBJECT: CUT FLOWERS FROM COLOMBIA

REFS: (A) BOGOTA 7097 (B) BOGOTA 7189

(C) BOGOTA 7190 (D) BOGOTA 7191

1. REFTEL (A) RAISES DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER GOC HAS ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED AGREED UPON SCHEME FOR AVOIDING IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL DUTIES BY U.S. ON CUT FLOWER IMPORTS FROM COLOMBIA. WE HAD BEEN LED TO UNDERSTAND BY COLOMBIANS THAT ALL NECESSARY IMPLEMENTATION WAS EFFECTED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE OF JULY 17. THIS UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO DOMESTIC FLOWER GROWERS AS WELL AS CONCERNED CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ONE ASPECT OF PROBLEM MAY BE RESOLVED IF CENTRAL BANK CIRCULAR DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2

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REFTEL (A) WILL BE RETROACTIVE. HOWEVER, FACTUAL

SITUATION APPEARS CONFUSED, AND UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES
TREASURY CANNOT PERMIT CONDITIONAL NEGATIVE DETERMINATION
TO BECOME FINAL UNTIL IT HAS OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT
AS OF NOW ONLY IDEMA IS EXPORTING FLOWERS TO U.S. IN
EFFECT WE NEED CONFIRMATION THAT THOSE GROWERS WHO HAVE
NOT YET SIGNED CONTRACT WITH IDEMA ARE NOT BEING
PERMITTED TO EXPORT.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE INFORM APPROPRIATE GOC

OFFICIALS THAT U.S. TREASURY WILL DELAY FOR AN ADDITIONAL
PERIOD THE FINALIZATION OF THE CONDITIONAL NEGATIVE
DETERMINATION MADE ON JULY 24, 1974 UNLESS THE
ASSURANCES DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE ARE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN AUGUST 20. THIS TIMING IS NECESSARY TO
ALLOW FOR MEETING ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC
NOTICE IN FEDERAL REGISTER ON AUGUST 22. EMBASSY
SHOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR GOC IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEME
VERY CLOSELY. WE ASSUME GOC WILL CONSULT WITH EMBASSY
BEFORE ANY PROGRAMS SUCH AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN PARA 5
OF REFTEL (A) ARE IMPLEMENTED SO THAT THEY CAN BE
PROPERLY ADVISED OF ANY POTENTIAL COUNTERVAILING
PROBLEMS. KISSINGER

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